

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /089 W

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R 101630Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4395

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE REVEALS NO CHANGE IN
GOVERNMENT POLICIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CENTRAL ISSUE OF PARLIAMENTARY NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE WAS OPPOSITION'S CONTENTION THAT INTERNATIONAL DETENTE NOT POSSIBLE UNLESS SAG MAKES FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN DOMESTIC RACIAL POLICIES. OPPOSITION CALLED ON GOVT TO "MOVE AWAY" FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AS PROMISED IN UN BY AMBASSADOR BOTHA. PM VORSTER REJOINED THAT BOTHA'S UN SPEECH CONGRUENT WITH TRADITIONAL NATIONAL PARTY (NP) PHILOSOPHY AND THAT "SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT" WOULD REMAIN KEYSTONE OF HIS GOVT'S POLICY. VORSTER EMPHASIZED SAG'S DETENTE EFFORTS, AND REPEATED THAT DESPITE WORLD ULTIMATUMS, "PEOPLES" OF SWA WILL DECIDE OWN FUTURE IN DUE COURSE. END SUMMARY.

2. NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION INTRODUCED IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FEB 3 BY OPPOSITION LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF CRITICIZED
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GOVERNMENT FOR, INTER ALIA, NOT PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND FOR NOT MOVING TOWARDS "HONORABLE SETTLEMENT OF SOUTH WEST AFRICAN ISSUES" BASED ON WISHES OF ALL SWA IHABITANTS. CENTRAL CHARGE VOICED BY GRAAFF AND OTHER OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN WAS THAT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DETENTE IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS GOVERNMENT MAKES FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN POLICY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT HOME. OPPOSITION ARGUED THAT "SYMBOLIC GESTURES" NOT ENOUGH AND THAT SAG MUST FIND WAYS M SHARING POWER WITH 2NON-WHITES." POLITICAL LIMBO OF COLOREDS AND INDIANS, DENIAL OF POLITICAL POWER TO URBAN BLACKS, AND PERVASIVE LEGALIZED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WERE THEMES HIT TIME AND AGAIN BY OPPOSITION SPEAKERS DURING WEEK-LONG DEBATE.

3. NATIONAL PARTY SPOKESMEN GENERALLY IGNORED SPECIFIC OPPOSITION CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTIONS, AND DEVOTED MUCH TIME TO RIDUCULING ALL-TOO-APPARENT INTERNAL UNITED PARTY DISCORD AND TO DEFENDING GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE AND POLICIES. FONMIN MULLER ARGUED THAT SAG NOT DRAGGING HEELS IN PROMOTING SOUTHERN AFRICAN COOPERATION. HARDLINE MINDEFENSE M.C. BOTHA LAUNCHED BITTER ATTACK ON OPPOSITION AND ACCUSED IT OF PROMOTING APPEASEMENT AND CAPITULATION RATHER THAN TRUE DETENTE. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT ONLY PLAUSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY, AND THAT POWER-SHARING AMONG SOUTH AFRICA'S RACE GROUPS COULD ONLY LEAD TO CONFLICT.

4. PM VORSTER TOOK FLOOR AFTERNOON FEB 7 TO DELIVER HIS RESPONSE TO NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION. PRIME MINISTER SAID LITTLE THAT HE HAS NOT SAID BEFORE. AS IS USUAL, HE RARELY RESPONDED DIRECTLY TO POINTS MADE BY OPPOSITION, BUT RATHER EXPATIATED ON LONG-STANDING NP POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES. VORSTER NOT UNEXPECTEDLY ALSO TOOK NUMEROUS POT-SHOTS AT UP'S INTRA-PARTY SQUABBLE.

5. SPEECH OF SOUTH AFRICA'S UN AMBASSADOR PIK BOTHA RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION. VORSTER SAID INCORRECT INTERPRETATIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO BOTHA'S REMARKS, WHICH WERE IN FULL ACCORD WITH NP POLICY. VORSTER EMPHASIZED THAT ANY MOVES AWAY FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY "WITHIN FRAME-
WORK OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT."

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6. VORSTER TOLD HOUSE THAT MORE WORLD LEADERS THAN EVER BEFORE NOW PREPARED TO LISTEN TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS. IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS WAS SA DETENTE EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. REFERRING TO NAMIBIAN SITUATION, VORSTER EMPHASIZED THAT "PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST WILL THEMSELVES DECIDE THEIR FUTURE." WORLD CAN MAKE AS MANY ULTIMATUMS AND THREATS AS IT WANTS, BUT "SOUTH WEST WILL NOT BE HANDED OVER TO SAM NUJOMA AND SWAPO."

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